



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO**  
**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**1325 J STREET**  
**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Resources Branch

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**South Sacramento County Streams Project**  
**Design Refinements**

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the South Sacramento County Streams Project, Design Refinements, Sacramento County, California. The proposed action would involve design refinements to the South Sacramento project, which was authorized in 1999. The resources, effects, and mitigation measures for the authorized project were evaluated in detail in the 1998 Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR).

The refinements to the previously authorized project include (1) deepening and/or widening existing channels to increase channel capacity, (2) retrofitting bridges to ensure unimpeded passage of flows, (3) constructing drop structures in channels to avoid potential erosion, and (4) constructing box culverts to increase flow area and decrease head loss. These refinements would ensure that the authorized project would provide sufficient channel capacity (desired level of flood protection) in the south Sacramento area.

During this review, the possible consequences of the work described in the EA have been studied with consideration given to environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, and engineering feasibility. I have also considered the views of other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. The environmental effects are being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), California Department of Fish and Game, California State Historic Preservation Officer, Caltrans, the City and County of Sacramento, and other affected parties.

Construction activities would result in temporary disturbance of aquatic and upland habitat, and permanent loss of 0.06 acre of upland habitat for the Federally listed giant garter snake. The Corps has reinitiated formal consultation with the Service and developed compensation and mitigation measures identified in an amendment to the existing Biological Opinion to minimize incidental take and compensate for this loss of snake habitat. The State-listed Swainson's hawk and two Federal species of concern (burrowing owl and Sanford's arrowhead) could be affected by construction. However, the mitigation measures in the 1998 EIS/EIR would be sufficient to address these temporary effects.

Construction activities at the bridge crossings could also cause temporary disruption and delays in traffic circulation and flow on area roadways. The contractor will develop a Traffic Management Plan, which will include best management practices (BMP's) to reduce construction traffic conflicts and to ensure public safety at bridge crossings and roadways. These BMP's would be sufficient to reduce any potential effects to traffic to less than significant.

Based on my review of the EA and my knowledge of the project area, I have determined that the proposed design refinements would have no significant, long-term effects on environmental or cultural resources. Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement. Therefore, an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate environmental documentation for the proposed action.

16 December 2004  
Date

Ronald N. Light  
Ronald N. Light  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer